Soil Survey Maps

2735. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to release detailed soil survey maps of all the State of India; and

(b) if so, how much beneficial it will prove for the cropping system and maximum productivity ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The soil resource maps and the accompanying reports will be beneficial for knowing the extent and distribution of different soil types in the state, their crop production potentials and their limitations which need to be managed by suitable corrective measures.

Report by FAO on GATT Treaty

2736. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the FAO has expressed any views in regard to the impact of GATT Treaty on Food supply;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have strictly considered the FAO report;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) whether the Food and Agriculture Organisation has agreed to provide special assistance to the poor nations; and

(f) if so, the details of the assistance likely to be made available to India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b) The Food and Agriculture Organisation has expressed the view that agricultural trade liberalization and reduction in export subsidies may lead to higher world prices for food. Production is however expected to increase in the low cost non-subsidizing countries to the extent that the higher world market prices of agricultural commodities are passed on to the producers of these countries. The reduction of agricultural output in developed countries as a whole, would also help to stimulate agricultural activity in the developing countries.

(c) and (d) These views have been reported in FAO documents Uruguay Round Agreement—A Preliminary Assessment and Commodity Review and Outlook, 1993-94 and are in the nature of a preliminary assessment only.

(e) and (f) The FAO can extend assistance to member countries for formulation of policies, developing policy alternatives, mobilisation of food aid, technical assistance to raise agricultural productivity, etc., on request.

India being an important member of the FAO also qualifies for such assistance, if the need arises.

Cashew Production in Orissa

2737. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantum of cashew produced in Orissa according to the review made during the last three years;

(b) whether there is a vast scope to increase areas under cashew cultivation in that State; and

(c) if so, the steps taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) The rough estimate of production of cashewnut in Orissa for 1991-92 to 1993-94 is given below :—

	(Tonnes)
1991—92	31,840
1992—93	39,060
1993—94	43,420

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Programme for Development of Cashew in India during the 8th Plan with a total outlay of Rs. 48.00 crores. Of this Orissa has been allocated Rs. 3.6 crores for subsidy support for :—

(i) Area expansion . . . . . 3400 ha.

(ii) Replanting/Rejuvenation . . . . . 500 ha.